IMORT OF DIAMMONIUM PHOSPHATE (DAP)

*431. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had imported a large quantity of (DAP) Di-Ammonium Phosphate;

(b) if so, the quantity thereof imported during the financial years 1987, 1988 and 1989;

(c) whether it is a fact that the job of handling and bagging thereof was given to private fertilizer factories in preference to public sector fertilizer units; and

(d) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA) : (a) and (b) Phosphatic fertilisers are imported to bridge the gap between assessed requirement and indigenous production. The following quantities of Di-ammonium Phosphate were imported during 1987-88 to 1989-90 :—

Year	Qty. of DAP imported (lakh tonnes)
1987-88	—
1988-89	8.56
1989-90	28.15

(c) and (d) No. Sir. The contracts for handling, bagging and distribution at various ports are awarded to the lowest tenderers based on negotiations.

SETTING UP OF BUILDING MATERIAL AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION COUNCIL.

*432. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Institution called "Building Material and Technology Promotion Council", if so, the details thereof;

(b) what would be the status of the said Council and whether it has been approved by the Planning Commission;

(c) whether Government have ensured that the proposed Council would not be duplicating the work being done by similar institutions, namely, the National Buildings Organisation, HUDCO, CSIR, etc.;

(d) what is the present position of the scheme;

(e) what steps Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the Technical officers working in the National Buildings Organisation in particular;

(f) what are the reasons for setting up the Council; and

(g) whether the post of Director, N.B.O. is lying vacant since March, 1988; if so, by when Government propose to fill up this post ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a), (b) and (f) Despite a large body of new and innovative technologies and building materials developed by the R&D organisations the impact on building and housing activity has been found to be limited. The draft National Housing Policy, therefore, envisaged the creation of a dedicated organisation for technology search, application and promotion in the area of housing and construction. The Government, therefore, decided to set up the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council as a Society under the aegis of the Ministry of Urban Development. The Council will act as an inter-ministerial platform to bridge the wide gap between laboratory and field application, promote on a large scale cost effective technologies and assist entrepreneurs for commercial production of building materials and components developed by R&D institutions and ensure wide spread adoption of innovative technologies and materials. This will also help to promote the objectives of the 8th Five Year Plan to increase employment and reduce the cost of construction. The initiative has been endorsed by the Planning Commission and the plan allocation has been made in the current year's budget for the Council's operations.

The Minister of Urban Development is the ex-officio President of the Council which is composed of the representatives